

Minutes of the October 22, 2018 Meeting of the CELS Executive Council

Call to Order: A meeting of the College of the Environment and Life Sciences Executive Council was held at 10:15 am at the CBL5 435 conference room. Members present were Department Chairs Dalton, Gomez-Chiarri, Mitkowski, Savage, Preisser, Sun and Uchida; Associate Deans, Sheely, Thornber and Veeger; *ex-officio* members Morreira, and Silvia; and Faculty Secretary Rice. *Ex-officio* members Palmer and Wilson were absent. Dean Kirby presided.

Approval of the Minutes: *A motion was made by Gomez-Chiarri and seconded by Thornber to approve the September 24, 2018 Minutes of the Executive Council. The amended minutes were approved unanimously.*

Announcements:

Dean Kirby:

- 1) The provost announced that 1/3 of the state-funded grad assistantships will be pulled back to his office for strategic reallocation at an approximate rate of 10% of the total for the next three years. Requests for GTAs or GRAs are due in the provost's office by Jan 7, necessitating a CELS review of requests from departments at least a month prior to that time. A schedule will be forthcoming from the dean's office.
- 2) The letters of Grad Assistantship offers will now contain information about teaching assignments. This has arisen because of complaints from GTAs arising about too short of a time between notification of assignments and beginning of the classes, making for little time to prepare.
- 3) URI Online is about to launch. An online version of the MESM Program is under discussion as a likely candidate for on-line offering, but many details need to be addressed.
- 4) The Graduate School has launched a fully on-line application system. Faculty are asked to provide feedback as to its performance.
- 5) The 2019-2021 AAUP Faculty Contract was ratified and will be into force soon.

Associate Dean Thornber:

- 1) The refurbishing of CBL5 452 into grad student offices is now complete. Faculty are urged to identify students with offices in lab spaces to be moved as a health and safety issue.
- 2) With funds short at the University, the management of cost-centers is coming under greater scrutiny and moving much further into a user fee strategy of financing.

Associate Dean Veeger:

- 1) TA assignments will be made strictly in response to instructional needs. Associate Dean Veeger will be sending around a TA request form to department chairs.
- 2) A new learning management system will be coming on-line to replace Sakai. It is expected to be capable of importing files from the Sakai legacy system which will run in parallel to the new system for a while.

Meredith Curfman:

- 1) Jo Link will be retiring & a list of her duties is being compiled to aid in decision making as whether to replace her position or not.
- 2) The URI Property Office is on a campaign to locate 'missing' items in inventory. They will be visiting offices & labs.

Old Business:

1) ***Nathaniel Mitkowski*** announced that the previously discussed Greenhouse Fee Structure Policy is nearing completion and will be formally announced soon

New Business:

1) ***Marta Gomez-Chiarri*** reported a request for 'kitchen space' by some grad students and access by non-MESM students to Woodward room 110. Issue was referred to the Space Committee

Adjournment: *It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 10:40am*

Respectfully submitted:

Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary